Mayor Report
June 17, 2021

As this is the last mayor report in the current Council term, I ask for a bit of indulgence and the liberty to make some general and personal remarks.

My wife Sandy and I have lived in the summer Village for nearly twenty years, and for half of that time I have served on Council. We have both been and continue to be volunteers for events sponsored by the Sun and Sand Recreation League.

First elected to Council in 2007, I served two consecutive three-year terms, was un-elected in 2013, and elected again in 2017 for this current four-year term. In the ten years on Council I have had the honour of being mayor for eight of those years.

For some historical perspective, during these years I have served with a total of four other members of Council, under the guidance of four different chief administrative officers and with five different public works crews. During that same time I served under four different premiers of Alberta and two changes in the party to hold a majority in the Legislature. At the federal level, during my service we have had two prime ministers and one change in the party holding the majority.

I retired from my job at Alberta Health Services in March of 2013 and again retired from my profession as a psychologist in private practice in March of 2017. It is now time to retire once more.

I am making this as a formal announcement that I will not run in the 2021 election.

I would like firstly to thank the residents of the summer Village of Sandy Beach for enabling me to serve on your council and represent you and your interests. Secondly, I thank my colleagues on Council, past and present, for your assistance, support, guidance and harmonious working relationships over the years. To the chief administrative officers and administrative assistants, I have come to appreciate the work you do, much of which is never seen by the public, and your continuing support of the elected council. To the public works crews, thanks also for maintaining our Village in tip-top shape. My thanks also to the community members who have volunteered and served on our Village committees, notably the Firesmart and FCSS committees. It is important to acknowledge and thanks our Director of Emergency Management and Deputy Director, not only for maintaining our Village emergency planning but also for representing us on the regional emergency management agency. I also would like to thank the members of the Beautification Committee, who initially came up with the idea of the cement planters throughout the Village and who continue to purchase flowers. If there is an individual or group that I have missed, kindly accept my apology for the omission and allow me to again say thanks.

I also send my appreciation to other local elected officials and their organizations, including Alexander First Nation, SV Sunrise Beach, the counties of Lac Ste Anne and Sturgeon and thank them for working cooperatively with our Summer Village.

A community is strong and vibrant when individuals step forward, unite and volunteer time and effort to make it a better place in which to live. Local officials, individuals or groups in any community are easy targets for criticism, and this occurs all too often and sometimes without sufficient information. On the other hand, when something seems to be amiss it can be greatly appreciated when individuals offer concrete suggestions or take on tasks which lead to some improvement.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank the spouses/domestic partners and family members of our elected officials and committee members and volunteers for enabling them to serve this community and for holding down the fort at home while they attended meetings, conferences and training sessions.

Finally I would like to thank my wife Sandy for her support during my time on council. This thanks is more than deserved for all the rushed dinners, late or missed suppers, evenings and weekends spent alone at home and the phone calls that interrupted our time at home. It is also in recognition of the need to postpone or re-schedule family events.

In conclusion, I say again that it has been an honour to have served on this Council. Going forward I wish to new Council well in their endeavours and that our Village continues to move ahead, thrive and remain a good place in which to live, visit, recreate and relax.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon Drybrough, Mayor